

## Andrew Jackson to Ezra Stiles Ely, January 12, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO REV. EZRA STILES ELY.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Handwriting of Maj. W. B. Lewis; but most of the last paragraph is in Jackson's own hand.

Washington, January 12, 1830.

*My D'r Sir*, I expected this would have been handed to you by my son, but a slight indisposition and the inclemency of the weather have induced him to postpone his intended visit to Philadelphia for the present.

The object of this letter is to inform you that Major Eaton has lately received a letter from Mr. Ogdon, Consul at Liverpool, covering one from Mr. Hyde, then in London, who is referred to in one of your communications to me last Spring, relative to the Slandrous reports against Mrs. Eaton. I consider it my duty to apprise you of the receipt of this letter; and to inform you that Mr. Hyde denies, in strong terms the correctness of the statement made to you. In the first paragraph of his letter he says, *in substance*, "Had you inclosed me charges of high Treason, preferred against me by my Government, you could not have astonished me more, or I more innocent of the charge than the one made which you inclose me." He goes on to state that he is unacquainted with Major Eaton and his lady, that he knows neither her, nor her relations, and has no recollection of ever having heard her name mentioned.

The scurrilous pieces published in the opposition papers against Mr. Eaton have, as I suppose, induced him to publish the card which, doubtless, you have seen. I assure

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you, my dear Sir, that he is fully prepared to expose the vile conspiracies against him—to unmask Mr. Campbell and his associates, and to vindicate his own character and reputation. The only evidence he wanted to enable him to do this fully and completely was a contradiction on the part of Mr. Hyde of the only unrefuted charge contained in your letter to me; and this he now has. The extraordinary conduct of Mr. Campbell must, at no distant day, bring forth a full disclosure of all the facts and circumstances connected with this unpleasant subject. He and his friends are daily getting into new and greater difficulties. He attempted not long since to throw a fire brand into the Methodist Society, by relating a story which he said he had from an old lady, a pious matron of that church. When this reached the ears of Major Eaton's friends, the old lady, referred to, was called on, who declared the story to be destitute of truth. She said Mr. Campbell applied to her under the garb of friendship and religion, to inform him concerning the character of Mrs. Eaton, and particularly with regard to a miscarriage she once had. The old lady informed him, as she has since stated, that she had long known Mrs. Eaton, and that she never in her life knew any thing, of her own knowledge, prejudicial to her character as a lady; and that the abortion, about which this *pious* and *reverend* gentleman inquired, happened either a little before or after Mr. Timberlake left home; if after certainly not more than two or three months as she believes. She further stated to him that Mrs. Oneal, the mother of Mrs. Eaton, related the circumstance to her without making any secret of it—indeed no one that she ever heard of believed for a moment that there was any thing wrong or improper in the affair.

If we have faith in that portion of the scriptures which says—“by their fruits ye shall know them”, surely we must believe that Mr. Campbell is any other than an Ambassador of our blessed Saviour. His<sup>2</sup> conduct has done the Presbyterian Society much injury, as well as the cause of religion generally. His conduct will be exposed either before the Presbytery, or before the nation, on a proper and fit occasion I have been *assured*. He cannot remain in credit here, and an inquiry any where will forever prostrate him as a preacher of the Gospel. I forewarned him of the *dilemma*—had he acted as a christian, ought, and as

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our blessed saviour him[self], society would have rested in peace and harmony and his conscience would not nightly admonished him of his improper and unchristian course.

2 From this place to the end the handwriting is Jackson's.

Present me affectionately to your lady and family to Mrs Carswell and hers, and to Mr Lamb, and believe me

yr friend